

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

December 17, 2014

Lisa Pinsonneault, Special Assistant Attorney General  
Rhode Island Office of Attorney General  
150 South Main Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: **Complaint Against Warren Clerk for Violations of APRA**

Dear Attorney Pinsonneault:

ACCESS/RI is a broad-based, non-profit freedom of information coalition dedicated to improving citizen access to the records and processes of government in Rhode Island.

I write on behalf of ACCESS/RI to file a complaint against the Warren Town Clerk (herein "WTC") for violating the Access to Public Records Act (herein "APRA"), R.I.G.L. § 38-2-1 et seq.

ACCESS/RI through our contractor Muckrock requested a list from your office of those entities (see Appendix A) that certified employee(s) "who have the authority to grant or deny persons or entities access to records...[and] have been provided orientation and training" (§ 38-2-3.16). The WTC did not appear on those lists provided by your office.

MuckRock also requested from the WTC "Written procedures for access to the agency's public records, including any records request forms required or suggested by the agency," required by § 38-2-3(d). As the attached correspondence indicates (Appendix B), the WTC did not possess written procedures.

MuckRock also examined compliance with the requirement in § 38-2-3(d) that "a copy of these procedures shall be posted on the public body's website if such a website is maintained and be made otherwise readily available to the public." A MuckRock visual review of the Town of Warren websites on or before August 21, 2014 and site specific ("site:www.townofwarren-ri.gov") Google searches ("APRA" and "public records") found no such procedures on any Town of Warren website.

ACCESS/RI asks your office to direct the Warren Town Clerk to correct the issues raised in this complaint. Furthermore we ask that the Attorney General file suit pursuant to § 38-2-8(b) in the Superior Court and seek civil fines for these knowing and willful—or, at a minimum, clearly reckless—violations of APRA pursuant to § 38-2-9(d).

Sincerely,

Linda Lotridge Levin  
LLLevin@uri.edu  
ACCESS/RI  
Attachments (2)